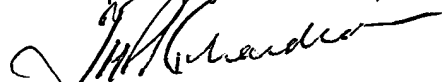


REMARKS

Amendments

5 Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended by removal of the
proviso. It is submitted that these amendments can properly be made at this stage of
prosecution, because they render moot the rejection of claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C.
112, do not raise any new issue for consideration by the Examiner, and place the claims
in better condition for the appeal. The proviso was inserted into claims 1 and 20 in the
10 Reply to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2002, in order to ensure that there was no
overlap between the claims of this application and the claims of the issued parent U.S.
Patent No. 6,376,032, in an attempt to obviate the double patenting rejection. In the
Office Action mailed March 26, 2003, the Examiner rejected the amended claims 1 and
20 under 35 USC 112, on the ground that the proviso did not have basis in the original
15 disclosure, and maintained the double patenting rejection. The removal of the proviso
clearly overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112. In the Reply to the Office Action
mailed March 26, 2003, Applicants filed a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejection
on the grounds of double patenting. The Advisory Action mailed June 13, 2003, stated
that the Terminal Disclaimer had not been accepted because it was signed by the
20 undersigned, who was not an attorney of record. With the Notice of Appeal mailed June
26, 2003, Applicants filed a Supplemental Power of Attorney or Authorization of Agent
appointing the undersigned. For the avoidance of doubt as to the effectiveness of the
Terminal Disclaimer already filed, attached is a second Terminal Disclaimer, dated after
the filing of the Supplemental Power of Attorney or Authorization of Agent.

25 Respectfully submitted,



T. H. P. Richardson,

Registration No.28,805

Tel No. 650 854 6304

